THE HALFKIND
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Keeping Secrets
By Tom Fischbach
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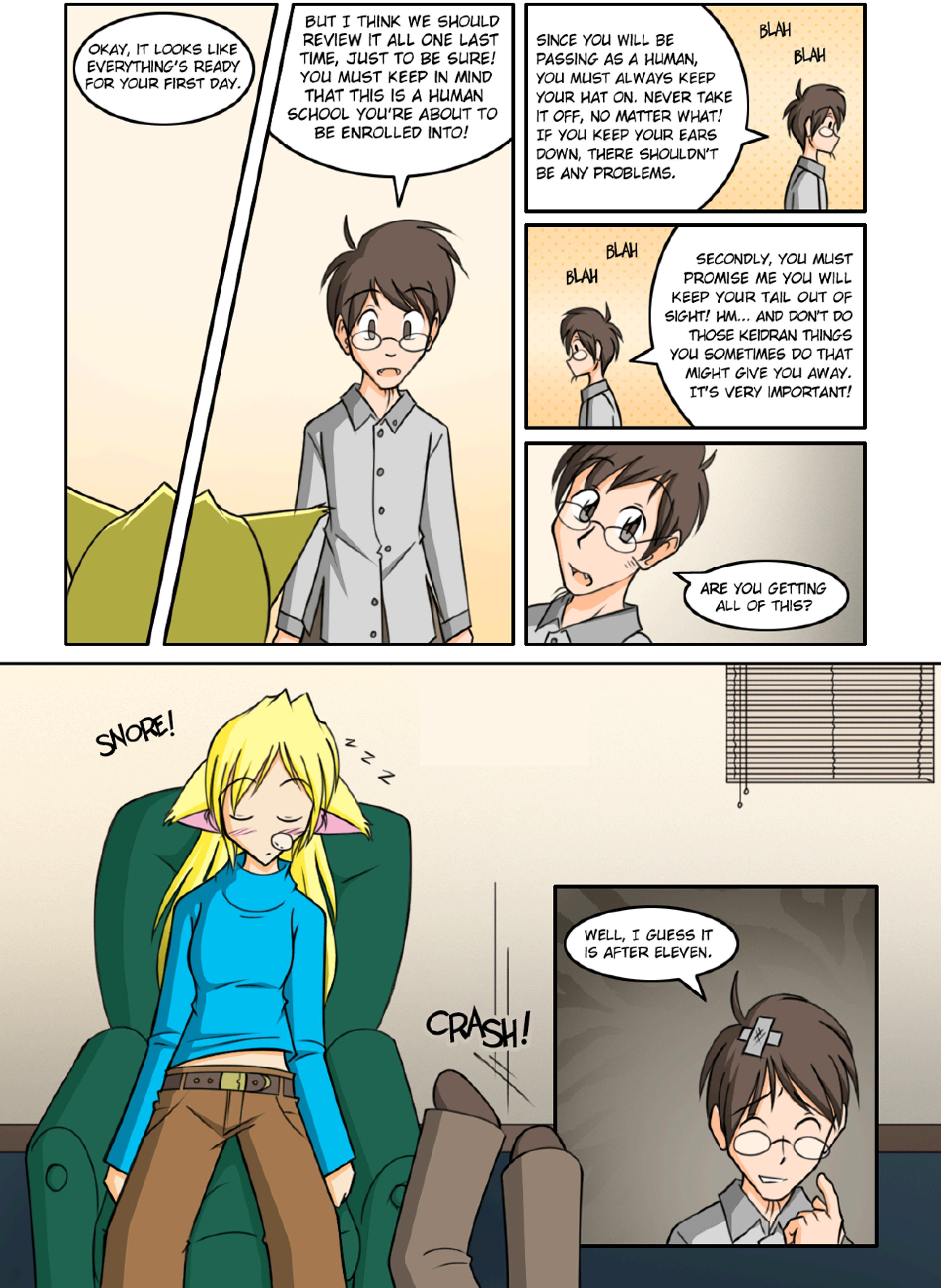
THE HALFKIND

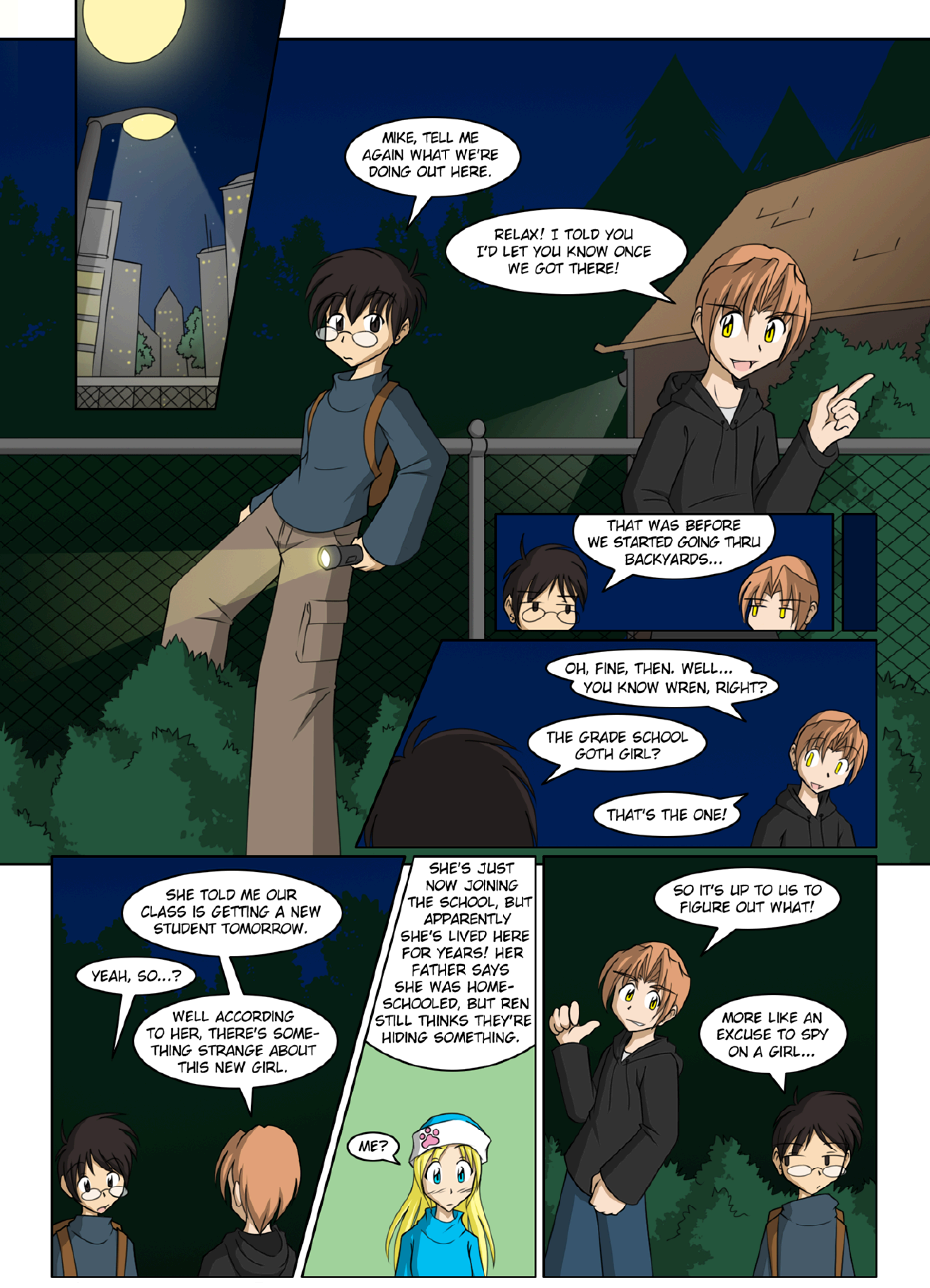
BY TOM FISCHBACH

ISSUE #1

TomArt
STUDIOS

SIGH...
I LIVE IN A CITY MADE UP OF TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE.
THE FIRST ARE THE *HUMANS*, OF COURSE. THEY POPULATE THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CITY, AND CONTROL MOST OF THE WEALTH.
THE HUMANS
THE KEIDRAN
THE SECOND ARE THE *KEIDRAN*. THEY LIVE ALONG-SIDE HUMANS, BUT REMAIN SEGREGATED. DURING THE DAY, THEY CAN CROSS OVER TO WORK, BUT AT NIGHT, THERE IS A CURFEW.
ONLY SERVANTS ARE PERMITTED TO LIVE OUTSIDE OF THEIR DESIGNATED AREAS, OR THEY CAN BE ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED.
SO, WHAT AM I?
I'M... A LITTLE OF BOTH. BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE.
I'M SUPPOSED TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
PLOP!


OKAY, IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S READY FOR YOUR FIRST DAY.
BUT I THINK WE SHOULD REVIEW IT ALL ONE LAST TIME, JUST TO BE SURE! YOU MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS A HUMAN SCHOOL YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE ENROLLED INTO!
SINCE YOU WILL BE PASSING AS A HUMAN, YOU MUST ALWAYS KEEP YOUR HAT ON. NEVER TAKE IT OFF, NO MATTER WHAT! IF YOU KEEP YOUR EARS DOWN, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS.
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
SECONDLY, YOU MUST PROMISE ME YOU WILL KEEP YOUR TAIL OUT OF SIGHT! HM... AND DON'T DO THOSE KEIDRAN THINGS YOU SOMETIMES DO THAT MIGHT GIVE YOU AWAY. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
ARE YOU GETTING ALL OF THIS?
SNORE!
Z Z Z
CRASH!
WELL, I GUESS IT IS AFTER ELEVEN.



MIKE, TELL ME AGAIN WHAT WE'RE DOING OUT HERE.
RELAX! I TOLD YOU I'D LET YOU KNOW ONCE WE GOT THERE!
THAT WAS BEFORE WE STARTED GOING THRU BACKYARDS...
OH, FINE, THEN. WELL... YOU KNOW WREN, RIGHT?
THE GRADE SCHOOL GOTH GIRL?
THAT'S THE ONE!
SHE TOLD ME OUR CLASS IS GETTING A NEW STUDENT TOMORROW.
YEAH, SO...?
WELL ACCORDING TO HER, THERE'S SOME-THING STRANGE ABOUT THIS NEW GIRL.
SHE'S JUST NOW JOINING THE SCHOOL, BUT APPARENTLY SHE'S LIVED HERE FOR YEARS! HER FATHER SAYS SHE WAS HOME-SCHOOLED, BUT REN STILL THINKS THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING.
ME?
SO IT'S UP TO US TO FIGURE OUT WHAT!
MORE LIKE AN EXCUSE TO SPY ON A GIRL...

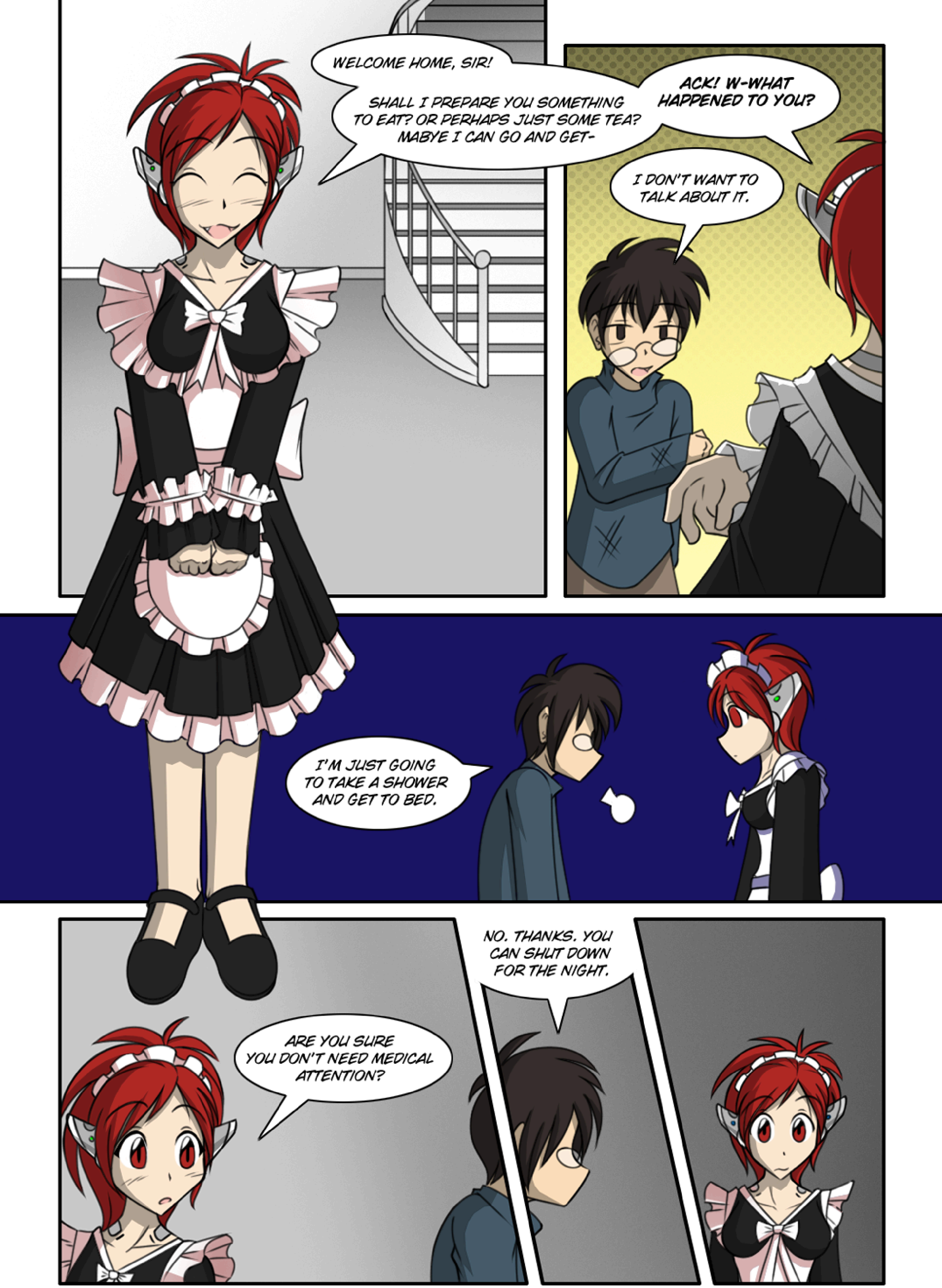
HEY, IF WREN'S SAYING ALL THIS STUFF, WHY ISN'T SHE OUT HERE WITH US?
BWOOSH!
ACK!
ACTUALLY, WE'RE RIGHT HERE.
HEY, LAIN! WHAT HAVE YOU GIRLS FOUND OUT SO FAR?
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
ERK!
SHOVE!
CRASH!
WHAT LAIN IS TRYING TO SAY IS, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING YET.
NEW GIRL'S HOUSE IS ALL CLOSED UP. ONLY ONE WINDOW IS OPEN, AND IT'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
WAY UP THERE.

WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE NO WAY TO GET UP THERE.
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GO HOME THEN,
NO WAY! I'VE GOT JUST THE THING...
DEUS EX STEPLADDER!
WHAT THE HELL?!
CLACK!
CLACK!
CLACK!
CLACK!
CLACK!
CLACK!
THUD!
GOOD. NOW GET CLIMBING.
NEAT!
SIGH... WHY DO I EVEN TRY?
YEAH, WHY DO YOU? STOP THAT.

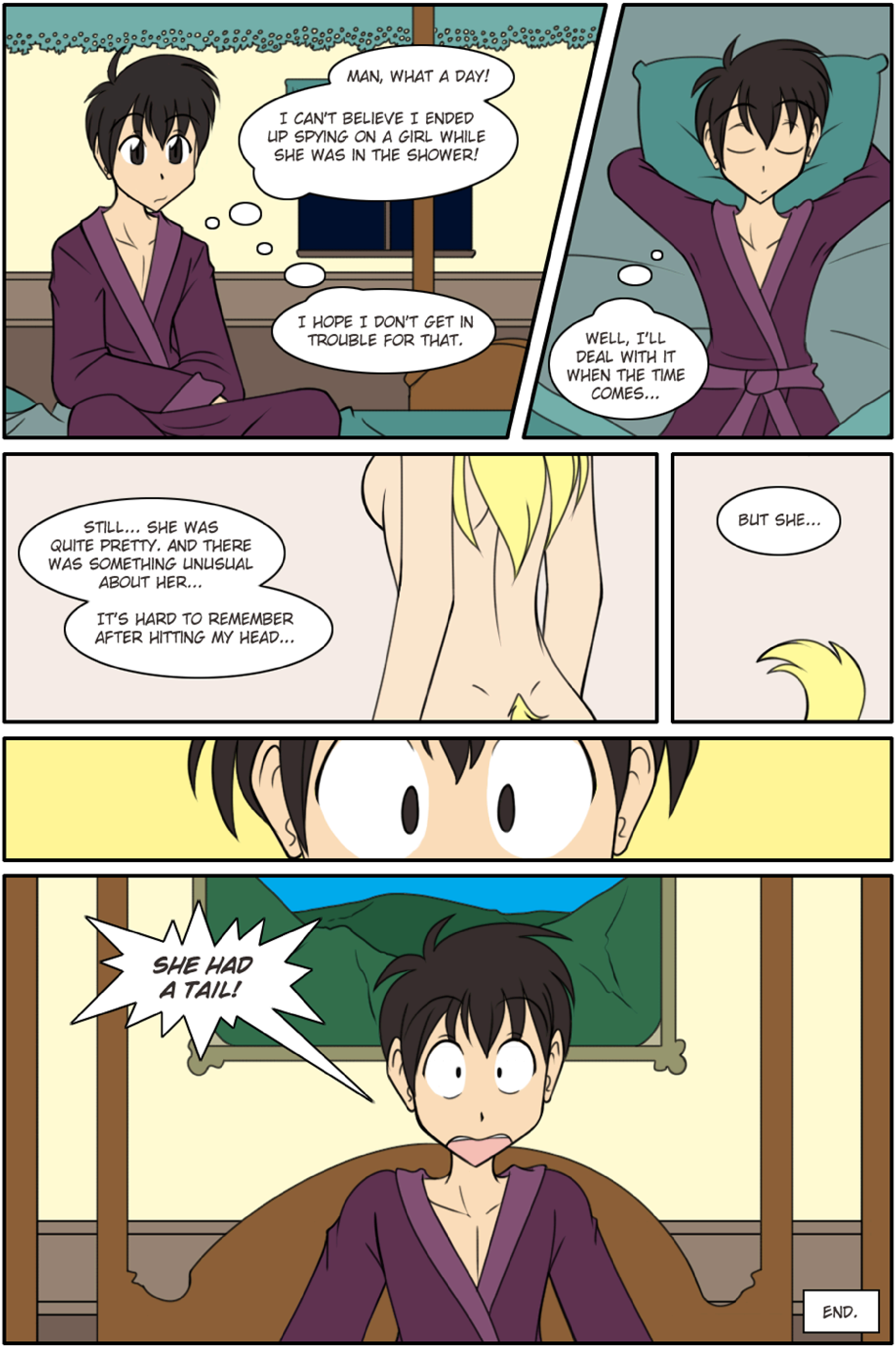
WHY AM I THE ONE WHO HAS TO DO THIS?
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE! JUST REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, WE'RE *TOTALLY* NOT GUNNA BAIL ON YA!
HEY, BE QUIET!
OH, WHATEVER. I'M PROBABLY NOT GUNNA SEE ANYTHING.

HA! I MADE IT!
HUH?
A BATHROOM?
GERK!
DUDE! WHAT DO YOU SEE? HELLO?
CRASH!
HUH?

UGH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE GUYS DITCHED ME...
ACTUALLY... YEAH, I CAN.
AT LEAST I MANAGED TO LIMP AWAY WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT...
½ Eden Manor
WELL, HERE I AM.
½ Eden Manor
HOME SWEET HOME.



WELCOME HOME, SIR!
SHALL I PREPARE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT? OR PERHAPS JUST SOME TEA? MABYE I CAN GO AND GET-
ACK! W-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER AND GET TO BED.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION?
NO. THANKS. YOU CAN SHUT DOWN FOR THE NIGHT.


MAN, WHAT A DAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I ENDED UP SPYING ON A GIRL WHILE SHE WAS IN THE SHOWER!
I HOPE I DON'T GET IN TROUBLE FOR THAT.
WELL, I'LL DEAL WITH IT WHEN THE TIME COMES...
STILL... SHE WAS QUITE PRETTY. AND THERE WAS SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT HER...
IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER AFTER HITTING MY HEAD...
BUT SHE...
SHE HAD A TAIL!
END.